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May 23 2002

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

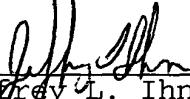
Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98,
Applicant submits herewith copies of publications that the Office
may wish to consider in examination of the subject application.
The publications are listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Serial No. 09/973, 089

Respectfully submitted,

By


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Enclosures